

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

1 A method and apparatus for restoring communications
2 in a network. The network includes a plurality of
3 nodes, with each pair of nodes connected by a link, and
4 with each link having information channels and
5 restoration channels. An idle signal is sent on each
6 restoration channel for each link. The failure of a
7 link is detected, with the failed link connecting an
8 originating node with a terminating node. In addition,
9 the failed link includes at least one information
10 channel carrying information signals. An alternate path
11 through the network is determined for the information
12 signals using restoration and idle signals sent over the
13 restoration channels. The information signals are then
14 routed from the originating node to the terminating node
15 in accordance with the alternate path.